

Wood, Robert F. '83

1482

CONF000460

DYKES_I_000457

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET

REGISTRATION, DESCRIPTION AND STATISTICAL SERVICE

APPENDIX A

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED]

DATE 3/3/83

FULL NAME ROBERT F. WOOD
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS STANWOOD AVE.

CITY PLAISTOW STATE N.H. ZIP CODE 03865

DATE OF BIRTH 10/4/38 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE _____ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION CATHOLIC NATIONALITY FRENCH

OCCUPATION NONE RIGHT NOW

EDUCATION (OVER)

WEIGHT 220 HEIGHT 5'7" RACE WHITE

COLOR OF HAIR DARK BROWN COLOR OF EYES BROWN

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS ARCHERY, PAINTING, SHOOTING, CERAMICS (OVER)

MARRIED OR SINGLE SINGLE CHILDREN _____

NAME OF SPOUSE _____ (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
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SPECIAL RECOGNITION WOOD BADGE, VIGIL

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

MATERIAL ALREADY SENT IN.

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

MATERIAL ALREADY SENT IN.

NOTED

F. STARON

JUN 15 '83

MAR 17 1983

JOSEPH L. ANGELIM

RS-509

SEE OVER.

Signed [Signature]
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council Fore River #749

CONF000461

DYKES_I_000458

Memo ... From ... **WILLIAM J. MORAN**
COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

To

Paul

*Attached find news
stories on Robert Hood*

Bill



LONE TREE COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA
36 Amesbury Road Haverhill, MA 01830

CONF000462

DYKES_I_000459

Page 2

The Haverhill, Mass., Gazette, Wednesday, June 22, 1983

Court dismisses sex charges against scout leader

By ERIC WALDMAN
Gazette staff writer

PLAISTOW, N.H. — Robert F. Wood, a former Plaistow boy scout official charged with sexually assaulting several cub scouts between the spring and fall of 1981, walked out of Plaistow District Court a free man Tuesday.

Special Justice Chariton Swasey, looking solemn and subdued behind the court bench, granted a motion by Wood's attorney, Barbara Fielden, to dismiss all seven misdemeanor charges against her client. Fielden, a public defender appointed by the court, pointed out in her motion for dismissal that under New Hampshire law the statute of limitations on misdemeanors prohibited Wood from being charged.

Under that law, an individual suspected of committing a misdemeanor must be charged within one year of the suspected incident. Wood cleared the statute of limitations by more than six months.

Swasey granted the dismissal, noting he had "no choice in that matter."

Plaistow Police Sgt. Steven Hanley, who prosecuted the case for the defense, offered no objection to the dismissal. "We feel there is no area for us to object to this motion," he told Swasey.

Wood exited the courtroom a free man shortly before 2:30 p.m. Tues-

Statute of limitations runs out

day. The dismissal of all charges against him came on the 18th day after his arrest. He spent that time in Rockingham County Jail. His bail had been set at \$1,000.

Wood reportedly remained in jail under protective custody, afraid of reprisals from angered parents and residents.

But there was no unruly mob waiting outside the town hall Tuesday, despite earlier published reports that Wood would be cleared of the charges. He exited the courtroom accompanied only by his attorney and a second representative from the New Hampshire public defender's office.

Keeping his face hidden from photographers gathered at the Town Hall, Wood left the scene in a small white car.

Back at the police station, police appeared disappointed they were not given the opportunity to prosecute the case. But at the same time, Hanley seemed resigned to a legal decision based on the laws he is dedicated to upholding.

"Everyone wants to do what is right," he said, "but that is the way the law works."

Hanley, who conducted interviews with parents, and cub scouts allegedly involved with Wood,

acknowledged there were some threats of reprisals. But after learning of Wood's imminent dismissal, he questioned whether those threats would be followed through.

"I really don't know how people are going to react," Hanley said.

He did note, however, that the immediate reaction of parents was one of concern for their sons' welfare. And although understandable, that reaction may have hindered police in their investigation into the charges, Hanley indicated.

Many parents were unwilling to allow their sons to testify in court about alleged involvement with Wood, leaving police with little hard evidence, Hanley said. In addition, there was one suspected case of felonious sexual assault, a more serious charge than the misdemeanors brought against Wood. (Felony charges involve suspected sexual acts, whereas a misdemeanor charge denotes no outright sexual activity, Hanley explained.)

But to charge a suspect with a felony, police must present evidence before a grand jury, which in turn issues an indictment if it deems the evidence worthy of a trial. Police and parents agreed the ordeal of appearing before a panel of strangers would be too much for a boy of 12,

and the pursuit of a felony indictment was dropped, Hanley said.

The statute of limitations in a felony case, Hanley noted, is six years.

Hanley said police made the decision not to put any of the youths through an unnecessary ordeal, and they stuck by that decision even when it became apparent they would have to drop the case.

"We came up with a saying: 'If we want the guy, we are going to have to sacrifice the kids,' he said, adding: "and we knew we couldn't do that."

For parents, the decision struck even closer to home. "A lot of parents were just not willing to open old wounds in their sons that could possibly be made worse," Hanley said.

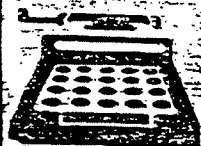
But, despite Hanley's admitted eagerness to win a conviction in the case, the welfare of the youths involved remained uppermost in his mind throughout the investigation. "We can't imagine parents who hate this guy enough to put their kid through the ordeal of a trial," he said.

Former boy scout official Robert F. Wood covers his face leaving Plaistow District Court building with an attorney after seven counts of sexual assault of minors were dismissed.



Page 2 The Haverhill, Mass., Gazette, Saturday, June 18, 1983

Gazette Country



How Gazette Country Works

If you want to sell an item or a service for personal profit, the cost is \$2 a line, with a minimum of two lines.

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Call The Gazette at 374-0221 for information, or to talk to a sales person or reporter.

A flea market will be conducted at the Ayer's Village Church Saturday, June 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds. Refreshments will be available. Space can be rented by calling 373-9289.

Mr. Brennan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fitch, assigned city government tasks for the morning. The program will end at 11:30

Manchester, N.H. for the second semester.

The Lorraine Auxiliary, VFW, Post 29, will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday at post headquarters, 64 Kenosha Ave. (S).

Tuesday, June 28, will be Rainbow Girls' Government Day in Haverhill.

Twenty girls will participate and will be assigned to various city departments for the morning.

The youngsters will meet city officials at 9 a.m. for refreshments before assuming their

assigned city government tasks for the morning. The program will end at 11:30

Alleged sex offender may be cleared, released from jail

By ERIC WALDMAN
Gazette staff writer
PLAISTOW, N.H. — A former Plaistow boy scout official, charged with seven counts of sexual assault of minors, may be cleared of all charges and released from jail, The Gazette has learned.

Robert F. Woods, 42, of 5 Stanwood Ave., Plaistow, was arrested June 3, and charged with sexually assaulting boys under the age of 12 on several occasions during the fall and spring of 1981. The seven charges against Woods were all misdemeanors. But, according to Police

Sgt. Steven Hanley, the New Hampshire statute of limitations on all misdemeanors is one year from the date of the incident to the date the suspect is charged. Hanley said the Attorney General's office yesterday handed down an opinion on the case that the statute of limitations had expired and the charges should be dropped.

Hanley said police had hoped the Attorney General's office could find a loophole in the law since the case dealt with minors. He added, Wood's public defender, Barbara

Fielden, indicated to police she will submit to Plaistow District Court a motion for her client's dismissal.

Wood, who currently is being held voluntarily in Rockingham County Jail on \$1,000 bail because he reportedly fears reprisals from angered residents and parents, is scheduled for trial in district court June 21.

"This is really unfortunate," Hanley said, referring to the statute of limitations' expiration, because "it looks like there is not a thing that can be done."

Hanley said he expects Wood will remain in jail until the day of his trial, when a judge will be asked by Fielden to dismiss the charges.

Police say they were hampered in their investigation by parents who were unwilling to come forward with their sons' stories. Hanley said the first reports did not surface until late last month, and then only through a guidance counselor at Timberlane Regional Junior High School.

Wood was charged three days after police received the first report from

school officials, Hanley said.

According to Dennis Spurling, vice president of the Lone Tree Boy Scout Council, Wood served on the Whittier District Council in an executive advisory capacity until July 1981, at which time he was forced to resign his post. Following the resignation, Wood was allowed to serve as a volunteer cub scout advisor until late summer or early fall, 1982, Spurling said.

Spurling would not explain why Wood was forced to resign in 1981.

Suspect in sex assaults declines bail

PLAISTOW, N.H. — Robert F. Wood, a former Plaistow scouting official charged with sexual assault of minors, returned voluntarily to Rockingham County Jail yesterday following his arraignment in Plaistow District Court.

Wood, 42, 9 Stanwood Avenue, Plaistow, was arrested at his home Friday and charged with five counts of sexual assault of a minor and two counts of indecent exposure, police said.

Wood entered no plea at his arraignment yesterday, and returned voluntarily to jail because of feared reprisals from angered residents, police said.

Bail was posted at \$1,000, and a district court trial was set for June 28.

Police currently are investigating a "lengthy list" of names of youths under the age of 12 who may have been involved in the alleged assaults between June 1981 and June 1982, Police said.

According to Dennis Spurling, vice president of the Lone Tree Scout Council, Wood served as a scout leader in Plaistow until July 1981, at which time he was forced to resign his post. Following the resignation, Wood served as a volunteer cub scout advisor until late summer or early fall, 1982, Spurling said.

Spurling would not say why Wood was forced to resign in 1981.

Chris Gilley, boy scout troop 18 committee member in Plaistow, said Wood was "not connected with Boy Scout Troop 18 on a troop or committee level. He was an executive with the Lone Tree Whittier District Council."

He said Wood served as a liaison between the Lone Tree Council and Troop 18.

William Moran, Lone Tree Council Executive, said this morning that Wood served on a Plaistow cub scout pack committee, but was unsure when or on what pack.

Man held on sexual assaults

PLAISTOW, N.H.

— A former Boy Scout troop leader was arraigned yesterday on seven counts of sexual assault involving two minor boys.

Robert F. Wood, 44, 5 Stanwood Ave., was arrested Friday afternoon at his home by Plaistow police.

The alleged assaults occurred between June and November of 1981 at the Meadowview Apartments in Plaistow and the Lone Tree Boy Scout Camp in Kingston, when the two boys were 9 and 11 years old, according to court records.

CONF000466

DYKES_I_000463

Former scout leader faces assault charges

PLAISTOW, N.H. — A former Plaistow Boy Scout troop leader was arrested late Friday and charged with five counts of sexual assault of a minor and two counts of indecent exposure, police revealed today.

Robert F. Wood, 42, Stanwood Avenue, Plaistow, was to have been arraigned in Plaistow District Court this morning in connection with the incidents involving youths all under the age of 12, Police Sgt. Steven Hanley said. The incidents all occurred between June, 1981 and June, 1982, Hanley said.

According to Dennis Spurling, vice president of the Lone Tree Boy Scout Council, Wood served as a boy scout troop leader in Plaistow until July 1981, at which time he was "forced to resign" his post. Following his resignation, Wood served as a volunteer cub scout advisor until late summer or early fall, 1982, Spurling said.

Hanley said Wood stayed voluntarily in the Rockingham County Jail on \$1,000 bail over the weekend because of feared reprisal from angered residents.

"We were aware that some people in town were intent on causing harm to Mr. Wood," he said.

Hanley indicated police investigations into reports by youths and their parents turned up a "lengthy list" of other children who were allegedly involved with Wood. "Our investigation also includes allegations that Wood may have had additional incidents with the same children over a period of time," Hanley said.

Although Hanley would not confirm the number of youths police suspect were involved, he said the "list does not contain more than 15 names."

Hanley said many parents and children are reluctant to get involved in the investigation, which did not begin until one child began suffering emotional problems, following his alleged involvement with Wood.

Police are urging parents who suspect their child may have been involved in the alleged incident to contact them as soon as possible.

CONF000467

DYKES_I_000464

June 17, 1983

Mr. William J. Moran
Scout Executive
Lone Tree Council, No. 749

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Robert F. Wood

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouter. We have reviewed this case with our Attorney and have now placed this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration Subscription &
Statistical Service

eko

cc: Northeast Region

CONF000468

DYKES_I_000465

Ex-Scout Leader Accused Of Sex Assaults on Boys

By ARIST FRANGULES

Union Leader Correspondent

PLAISTOW — A former Boy Scout troop leader was arrested Friday on seven counts of sexual assault on two minors, police said yesterday.

Robert P. Wood, 44, of 5 Stanwood Ave., was arraigned yesterday morning in Plaistow District Court following his arrest Friday afternoon at his home by Plaistow police on the sexual assault charges.

According to Plaistow Police Sgt. Steven Hanley, the arrest followed an investigation which has indicated that approximately a dozen or more Plaistow area boys, between the ages of six and 11, were sexually assaulted.

Hanley said more charges may be brought forth at Wood's trial date, scheduled for June 21 at Plaistow District Court. Sexual assault is considered a misdemeanor, he said.

Wood is being held on

\$1,000 cash bail at Rockingham County Jail. Hanley noted that the father of one of the alleged victims was found outside the suspect's home seeking to "take out some of his anger," said Wood.

The alleged assaults occurred in the spring and summer of 1982, Hanley said, adding that Wood "was in a position to associate with the kids."

Wood served as a paid boy scout staffer in Plaistow until his resignation was sought and given, according to Dennis Spurling, vice president of the Lone Tree Boy Scout Council.

Hanley said he has been informed that some of the children have been involved in counseling. He said he has advised parents that every child must be dealt with on an individual basis.

CONF000469

DYKES_I_000466

February 4, 1983

Mr. William J. Moran
Council Executive
Lone Tree Council, No. 749

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the information which you recently sent us concerning Robert F. Wood. This information is very valuable to us and will be of great assistance in refusing future registration applications.

I am enclosing a confidential record sheet which I would appreciate being returned to me with the information indicated to the best of your ability. This will help us to identify this individual, should he attempt to register at a later date.

If you get any other information, or if any charges are pressed, please let us know so that we can add this to our files.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Frost, Director
Registration, Subscription &
Statistical Service

eka

Attachment

cc: Northeast Region

READY TO FILE
FEB 7 1983
DIANA ATKINSON

CONF000470

DYKES_I_000467

Boy Scouts of America



36 Amesbury Road
Route 110 at Kenoza Lake
Haverhill, Mass. 01830
Tel. (617) 372-0591

January 31, 1983

Mr. Paul Ernst
Registration & Subscription Division
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Tx 75062

Dear Paul:

Attached are the statements I discussed with you on the phone.

These statements are reference Robert F. Wood, formerly a Pro
in Lone Tree Council.

I am also attaching a copy of my acceptance of a verbal resignation
from him, as suggested by our attorney.

If anything else is needed, give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. Moran".

William J. Moran
Council Executive

WJM:pm
Enc.

SERVING BOYHOOD IN NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS AND SOUTHEASTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE
AN AGENCY OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY UNITED FUND.
AND HAMPSHIRE UNITED FUND

CONF000471

DYKES_I_000468

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

SR. and [REDACTED]

We are the parents of [REDACTED] and we reside at [REDACTED] Circle, Plaistow, New Hampshire.

Our son was a member of the Lone Tree Council Boy Scouts of America from September 1981 through September 1982. During the course of our son's membership in the Lone Tree Council he had occasion to participate in several camping trips to the Boy Scout Camp in Kingston, New Hampshire and also to Bear Brook Park.

[REDACTED] Jr.'s Scout leader during this time period was Robert F. Wood. Mr. Wood accompanied [REDACTED] Jr. and his unit on the above mentioned camping trips during the time period described.

On several occasions Mr. Wood precipitated sexual contact between himself and [REDACTED] Jr. Mr. Wood touched [REDACTED] private parts, and further attempted to force [REDACTED] Jr. to reciprocate. [REDACTED] Jr. was frightened by Mr. Wood into not disclosing these incidents to any other responsible adult. Finally, [REDACTED] Sr. was able to get [REDACTED] Jr. to disclose the facts described in this statement. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] Jr. did suffer emotional upset and unrest as a result of these situations, but now as a result of his having discussed the incidents with his parents, feels relieved.

Seamus E. McTully
Witness

Seamus E. McTully
Witness

CONF000472

DYKES_I_000469

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

We are the parents of [REDACTED] and we reside at [REDACTED] Street, Plaistow, New Hampshire.

Our son was a member of the Lone Tree Council Boy Scouts of America during the years 1981 and 1982. During the course of our son's membership in the Lone Tree Council he had occasion to participate in several camping trips to the Boy Scout Camp in Kingston, New Hampshire and also to Bear Brook Park.

[REDACTED] Scout den leader during this period of time was Robert F. Wood. Mr. Wood accompanied [REDACTED] and his unit on the above-mentioned camping trips during the time periods described.

On one certain occasion Mr. Wood precipitated sexual contact between himself and our son [REDACTED]. Mr. Wood attempted to touch [REDACTED] private parts. [REDACTED] was frightened by Mr. Wood into not disclosing this incident to any other responsible adult. Finally, Mrs. [REDACTED] was able to get her son to disclose the facts described in this statement. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] did suffer emotional upset and unrest as a result of these situations, but now as a result of his having discussed the incidents with his parents, feels relieved. -

Seborah E. McHulley
Witness

Seborah E. McHulley
Witness

CONF000473

DYKES_I_000470

October 1, 1982

Mr. Robert F. Wood
Stanwood Ave.
Plaistow, NH 03865

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have taken this opportunity to formally accept your resignation from the Lone Tree Council, Inc., and the Boy Scouts of America

Any further discussion you may have in reference to your resignation should be directed to Atty. Dennis H. Spurling, 105 Kenosha Ave., Haverhill, Mass.

Sincerely,

William J. Moran
Council Executive

WJM:pm

CONF000474

DYKES_I_000471